

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. A base station, servicing a macrocell, comprising:  
2 at least one steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array, co-located with an antenna of said  
3 base station, for serving a microcell within the macrocell.

1 2. The base station of claim 1, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional array  
2 serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the  
3 macrocell.

1 3. The base station of claim 1, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

1 4. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station includes a steerable  
2 N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array for each microcell within the macrocell.

1 5. The base station of claim 1, said at least one steerable N-dimensional array further  
2 including,  
3 at least two antenna elements, and  
4 an N-dimensional digital filter for receiving inputs from said at least two antenna  
5 elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed output.

1 6. The base station of claim 5, wherein at least one of inputs and outputs of said at  
2 least two antenna elements are weighted to steer a resultant output beam of said at least one  
3 steerable N-dimensional array.

1 7. The base station of claim 6, wherein the at least one of inputs and outputs of said at  
2 least two antenna elements are weighted using variable filter tap weights.

1 8. The base station of claim 1, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional  
2 ( $N \geq 2$ ) array serves a hot spot.

1 9. The base station of claim 6, wherein an angular spread and look direction of the  
2 resultant output beam of said at least one steerable N-dimensional array are varied by varying  
3 a number of filter taps.

1 10. The base station of claim 5, wherein said at least two antenna elements are  
2 arranged in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 11. The base station of claim 9, wherein complex coefficients for the filter taps are

2 given by:  $w_j = \cos \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$

3 where k= the filter tap,

4 d= antenna element spacing,

5  $\theta$ = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

6  $\lambda$ = wavelength of an incident signal.

1 12. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station is part of a TDMA system  
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

1 13. The base station of claim 1, wherein said base station is part of a CDMA system  
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the code  
3 domains.

1 14. A method of servicing at least one microcell in a macrocell, comprising:  
2 co-locating at least one steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array with an antenna of said  
3 base station;  
4 steering a resultant beam of the at least one steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array  
5 toward the at least one microcell.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one steerable N-dimensional array  
2 serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the  
3 macrocell.

Sub  
ai  
004230" 55694550

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein said co-locating step includes co-locating a  
2 steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array with the base station for each microcell within the  
3 macrocell.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one steerable N-dimensional array  
2 includes at least two antenna elements and an N-dimensional digital filter for receiving inputs  
3 from the at least two antenna elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed  
4 output.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising weighting at least one of inputs and  
2 outputs of said at least two antenna elements to steer the resultant output beam of said at least  
3 one steerable N-dimensional array.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said weighting step includes weighting the at  
2 least one of inputs and outputs of the at least two antenna elements using variable filter tap  
3 weights.

1 21. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one steerable N-dimensional array  
2 serves a hot spot.

1 22. The method of claim 19, further comprising varying a number of filter taps of the  
2 resultant output beam of the at least one steerable N-dimensional array to vary an angular  
3 spread and look direction of the resultant output beam.

1 23. The method of claim 18, further comprising arranging the at least two antenna  
2 elements in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein complex coefficients for the number of filter taps  
2 are given by:

Sub  
ai  
004250-6697560

$$w_j = \cos \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$$

where  $k$  = the filter tap,

$d$  = antenna element spacing,

$\theta$  = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

$\lambda$  = wavelength of an incident signal.

25. The method of claim 14, wherein the base station is part of a TDMA system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

26. The method of claim 14, wherein the base station is part of a CDMA system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the code domains.

27. A base station, servicing a macrocell, comprising:  
steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array means, co-located with an antenna of said base station, for serving a microcell within the macrocell.

28. The base station of claim 27, wherein said steerable N-dimensional array means serving the microcell is co-located on an antenna tower with the antenna serving the macrocell.

29. The base station of claim 27, wherein the microcell includes a hot spot.

30. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station includes steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array means for each microcell within the macrocell.

31. The base station of claim 27, said steerable N-dimensional array means further including,

at least two antenna elements, and

N-dimensional digital filter means for receiving inputs from said at least two antenna elements and processing the inputs to produce a beamformed output.

1 32. The base station of claim 31, wherein at least one of inputs and outputs of said at  
2 least two antenna elements are weighted to steer a resultant output beam of said steerable N-  
3 dimensional array means.

1 33. The base station of claim 32, wherein the at least one of inputs and outputs of said  
2 at least two antenna elements are weighted using variable filter tap weights.

1 34. The base station of claim 27, wherein said steerable N-dimensional ( $N \geq 2$ ) array  
2 means serves a hot spot.

1 35. The base station of claim 32, wherein an angular spread and look direction of the  
2 resultant output beam of said steerable N-dimensional array means are varied by varying a  
3 number of filter taps.

1 36. The base station of claim 31, wherein said at least two antenna elements are  
2 arranged in a two-dimensional plane or on a surface of a cylinder.

1 37. The base station of claim 35, wherein complex coefficients for the filter taps are

2 given by: 
$$w_j = \cos \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right] - i \cdot \sin \left[ 2\pi \frac{Kd}{\lambda} \sin \theta \right]$$

3 where  $k$ = the filter tap,

4  $d$ = antenna element spacing,

5  $\theta$ = look direction of the resultant output beam, and

6  $\lambda$ = wavelength of an incident signal.

1 38. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station is part of a TDMA system  
2 and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in the frequency domain.

1 39. The base station of claim 27, wherein said base station is part of a CDMA  
2 system and the macrocell and the microcell are separated in one of the frequency and the  
3 code domains.